

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

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O 181228Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 488

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

UNCLAS PRETORIA 029

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PDEV, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: INTERNAL TALKS CONTINUE, AGREEMENT

MAY BE REACHED ON ARMED FORCES.

REF: PRETORIA 0888

1. SUMMARY: THE TALKS CONTINUED ON FEBRUARY 16 WITH A REPORTED
GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THE SECURITY FORCES. MEANWHILE, MOZOREWA
PUBLISHED HIS VERSION OF THE EIGHT AGREED PRINCIPLES WHICH

CURIOSLY LEFT OUT THE POINT ON VOTES NEEDED TO REPEAT
ENTRENCHED CONSTITUTIONAL CLAUSES. THE SAG IS REPORTED TO BE "CLEARLY
DELIGHTED" AT THE COURSE OF EVENTS. END SUMMARY.

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2. PRESS ACCOUNTS HERE SAY THAT IN FEBRUARY 16 MEETING, INTERNAL
LEADERS REACHED A "BROAD AGREEMENT" ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE
ARMED FORCES, NO DETAILS WERE RELEASED AND PRESS REPORTS
STRESSED THAT IT WAS A GENERAL AGREEMENT AND THE BULK OF THE
NEGOTIATION ON THIS ISSUE WOULD BE LEFT TO THE INTERIM ADMINIS-
TRATION.

ONE ACCOUNT, HOWEVER, SAYS THAT THE CRUX OF AGREEMENT WAS A SAFE RETURN

POLICY OF ALL GUERRILLAS WHICH ALLOWED THEM TO EITHER JOIN THE NEW SIMBABWE NATIONAL ARMY OR RETURN TO CIVILIAN LIFE.

3. REPORTEDLY, THE FEBRUARY 16 SESSION ALSO DISCUSSED THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS. ACCOUNTS SAY THAT A SUGGESTION OF A 20 MEMBER COUNCIL, HEADED BY THE FOUR INTERNAL LEADERS AND WITH ALL FOUR PARTIES EQUALLY REPRESENTED, WAS PUT FORWARD FOR DISCUSSION. AMONG THE PROBLEMS REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED WAS THE DISPOSITION OF THE PRESENT WITHE CABINET AND PARLIAMENT. THERE IS TO BE A MEETING OF DELEGATION HEADS, FEBRUARY 17, AND A FULL NEGOTIATING SESSION ON FEBRUARY 20.

4. MEANWHILE, MUZOREWA'S UANC HAS ISSUED TO THE PRESS ITS VERSION OF THE EIGHT POINTS THAT WERE AGREED UPON ON FEBRUARY 15. THE STATEMENT GIVES THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A) A LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY WITH 100 MEMBER SEATS, 72 RESERVED FOR BLACKS AND 28 RESERVED FOR WHITES. TWENTY OF THE LATTER SEATS WILL BE NOMINATED AND VOTED FOR BY WHITES, EIGHT WILL BE CHOSEN BY BLACK AND WHITE VOTERS FROM A SLATE OF SIXTEEN CANDIDATES PUT FORWARD BY WHITES. THE 28 SPECIALLY ELECTED SEATS CANNOT FORM A COALITION WITH A MINORITY PARTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF FORMING A GOVERNMENT. THE WHITE SEATS WILL LAST TEN YEARS OR TWO PARLIAMENTS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER. AT THE END OF THIS TIME, UNCLASSIFIED

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A COMMISSION WILL BE APPOINTED TO REVIEW THE SITUATION AND IF THEY RECOMMEND A CHANGE OF THE RESERVED SEATS SYSTEM, A BILL WILL BE INTRODUCED IN PARLIAMENT TO THAT EFFECT. THIS BILL WILL NEED AT LEAST 51 VOTES, OR A SIMPLY MAJORITY, TO PASS.

B) THERE WILL BE A DECLARATION OF RIGHT TO PROTECT INDIVIDUALS AND PROPERTY.

C) THE INDEPENDENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE JUDICIARY WILL BE ENTRANCHED.

D) THERE WILL BE AN INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD WHICH WILL ADMINISTER THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND WILL HAVE SECURITY OF TENURE.

E) THE PUBLIC SERVICE, POLICE FORCE, DEFENSE FORCES AND PRISON SERVICE WILL BE MAINTAINED AT HIGH EFFICIENCY AND BE FREE FROM POLITICAL INTERFERENCE.

F) PENSIONS WILL BE GUARANTEED AND HE REMITTABLE OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.

G) PERSONS WITH DUAL CITIZENSHIP WILL NOT BE DEPRIVED OF IT.

H) THE ABOVE AGREEMENT LEAVES THE ISSUES OF THE ARMED FORCES AND INTERIM GOVERNMENT UNRESOLVED AND NO "FULL SETTLEMENT" WILL BE SIGNE SIGNED

UNTIL THESE ISSUES ARE RESOLVED.

5. ONE PRESS ACCOUNT STATES THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IS "CLEARLY DELIGHT" AT THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN SALISBURY. QUOTING

A "TOP SAG SOURCE", THE ARTICLE SAYS THE SCENE IS NOW "HOPEFUL"
AND THE SAG "WILL CONTINUE TO WISH THEM WELL AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM
TO WORK OUT A CONSOLIDATED FUTURE. BUT THE FINAL DECISION AND
THE FINAL FORM OF GOVERNMENT WILL BE THEIRS."

6. COMMENT: MUZOREWA'S RENDITION OF THE EIGHT POINTS OF
AGREEMENT COINCIDES FAIRLY CLOSELY TO THE POINTS ORIGINALLY
PRESENTED BY SMITH. ONE CURIOUS AND POSSIBLY NOTABLE OMISSION IS
THE CLAUSE ON REPEALING ENTRENCHED PROVISIONS. SMITH HAD
ORIGINALLY ASKED FOR TWO-THIRDS PLUS ONE OF THE PARLIAMENT TO CHANGE
ANY OF THESE BASIC PRINCIPLES. THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS HAD
FINALLY SETTLED ON THE INCREASED NUMBER OF 78 MEMBERS VOTING TO
CHANGE ENTRENCHED PROVISIONS. MURZOREWA, HOWEVER, DOES NOT MENTION
THAT POINT AT ALL.
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